

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENT

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Department of Mines Minerals and Energy (DMME) and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) seek written and oral comments from interested persons on the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Study for Straight Creek and tributaries; Stone Creek, Ely Creek, Puckett Creek, Lick Branch, Baileys Trace and Gin Creek in Lee County. These streams were identified on the 1998 303(d) Total Maximum Daily Load Priority List and Report as impaired due to violations of the State's water quality standards for the Aquatic Life Use - General Standard (benthic) and Recreational Use - Bacteria.

The first public meeting on the development of the Total Maximum Daily Loads to address the benthic and bacteria impairments on Straight Creek and tributaries will be held on **Wednesday, August 11, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Pennington Gap, Virginia Municipal Building. The cream two-story municipal building has a green roof and is located on Constitution Road in Pennington Gap. From Alternate Route 58, traveling from Big Stone Gap, turn left onto Herrel Street and turn left again onto Constitution Road. The purpose of the study is to identify sources and determine reductions of pollutants so that the stream can meet the water quality standards.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report.

Straight Creek and its tributary streams are located in Lee County northwest of Pennington Gap, Virginia. The impairments include about 38 miles of streams in the Straight Creek watershed. Straight Creek flows through St. Charles. The entire length of Straight Creek from its headwaters to confluence with North Fork Powell River is included. Stone Creek follows Route 421 west towards the Kentucky/Virginia state line.

The public comment period will end on **September 13, 2004**. The fact sheets describing the impairments are available upon request or can be viewed at the DEQ website: <http://www.deq.state.va.us>. Address questions or information requests to Nancy T. Norton, P. E. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments and should be sent to Nancy T. Norton, P. E., Department of Environmental Quality, P. O. Box 1688, Abingdon, Virginia 24212-1688, telephone (276) 676-4807, fax (276) 676-4899, or e-mail ntnorton@deq.state.va.us.